REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the official action mailed July 8, 2005..

Claim 1 has been amended and claim 5 has been canceled. The number of claims remains within the number for which official fees have been paid. No new matter is presented.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States patent application Publication No. 2002/0012241 ("Takeda"). The rejections with respect to claims 2-16 are traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 5 such that claim 1 as a whole is believed allowable as amended. Claim 5 has been canceled accordingly.

With entry of the amendment submitted herewith, claims 1-4 and 6-16 remain pending and are properly allowable over the cited Takeda reference.

Claim 1 as amended herein now recites (amendment shown in underline):

> 1. An electromagnetic shielding structure, comprising:
>
> an elongated support member comprising a conductive wall extending from a base edge and having a flange, the flange of the support member being spaced from the base edge and oriented at an angle with respect to the wall portion, wherein the flange of the support member and the conductive wall form an elongated substantially J-shaped hook carried on the base edge;
>
> a cover member comprising a conductive side wall substantially coextensive with the conductive wall of the support member and a panel extending laterally from the side wall, the cover member comprising a flange extending from the side wall, wherein the flange and the side wall of the cover member form a substantially J-shaped hook around the panel of the cover member;
>
> wherein the J-shaped hooks of the support member and the cover member are located and sized to engage one another for mechanically and electrically attaching the cover member to the

support member for completing at least part of an electromagnetic sealing barrier, and furthermore, the side wall of the cover member and the conductive wall of the support member overlap one another and define a space between said side wall and said conductive wall, wherein the flanges of the support member and the cover member reside in the space and mutually engage one another for holding the cover member on the support member.

The added limitations are from claim 5 as originally filed. In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 5 as anticipated by the Takeda reference. However, Applicant disagrees that the Takeda discloses the subject matter claimed as a whole.

The limitation added to claim 1 requires that "the side wall of the cover member and the conductive wall of the support member overlap one another and **define a space between said side wall and said conductive wall**, wherein **the flanges of the support member and the cover member reside in the space** . . . ." This limitation clearly requires that flanges of the support member **and** the flanges of the cover member reside in the space **between** the side wall and the conductive wall defined by the overlapping portions of the side wall of the cover member and the conductive wall of the support member. This structural aspect of Applicant's invention causes the flanges of the walls to have a capture effect when engaged.

In contrast, the device of the Takeda reference does not disclose such structure. Namely, only the flanges (1b) of the support member (1a) reside in the space **between** the side wall of the cover member (see sidewall of element 3, adjacent element 1c, Figs. 1A, 2, as identified by the Examiner) and the conductive wall (1a). The flanges (3b) of the cover member (3) **do not** reside in that space between the side wall of the cover member and the conductive wall. Furthermore, the disclosure of the Takeda reference **does not** teach or suggest a variation in the disclosed

structure where both groups of the flanges (3b and 1b) may reside within the space between the side wall of the cover member and the conductive wall.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended and as a whole, is not disclosed by Takeda, which fails to disclose or suggest a structure as claimed. Claim 1 is patentable over the Takeda reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6-11 depend from claim 1 which is allowable over the cited reference. Thus, claims 2-4 and 6-11 are also allowable over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-11 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects method claims 12-15 as being "inherent in the assembly of the claimed structure since the prior art (Takeda) teaches or suggests the elements of the invention as claimed." The Applicant traversed this rejection because as discussed above in reference to amended claim 1, the Takeda reference does not teach or suggest the invention claimed in amended claim 1. Furthermore, the method steps recited in claims 12-15 properly describe the steps required in applying the electromagnetic shielding structure of claim 1 as amended while the Takeda reference **does not** teach or suggest such steps as asserted by the Examiner.

The independent claim 12 requires, among other things, the following:

> (1) wherein the flanges of support member and the side wall of the cover member are **placed to bear against one another in a space between the support member and the side wall**, and (2) wherein **said engaging comprises applying a force to snap the flanges over one another** in assembling the cover member onto the support member.

(highlight in bold and the numbering added). The text shown in bold above requires two things that are not taught or suggested by the disclosure of the cited Takeda reference. The text of claim 12 quoted above requires (1) that the flanges of the support member and the flanges of the

side wall of the cover member are placed to bear against one another **in a space between the support member and the side wall**. As discussed above in reference to amended claim1, the flanges (1b) and (3b) of the support member and the side wall of the cover member, respectively, **do not** reside in the space between the support member and the side wall. Only the flange (1b) reside in that space. Therefore, Takeda reference does not teach or suggest the requirement (1) recited in the portion of claim 12 quoted above.

Additionally, the text of claim 12 quoted above requires (2) that the engagement between the conductive cover member and the support member "**comprises applying a force to snap the flanges over one another** . . . ." In contrast, the structure of Takeda reference does not involve such engaging action between the cover member (3) and the support member (1a). The actual text of the Specification of the Takeda reference is very skimpy on the description of how the cover member (3) is engaged or attached to the support member (1a). For example, the only description of this engagement is provided in paragraph [0021] of the Takeda reference:

> [0021] In order to attach the shield plate 3, as shown in the sectional view of the emitted-radio-wave shield in FIG. 2, the projection 3b of the shield plate 3 is engaged with the through-hole 1c of the flange 1b of shield box 1, after which the shield plate 3 is locked by engaging a locking pawl 5a of the locking means 5.

Although this description is not very enlightening, it is clear from review of Figs. 1A and 2 of the Takeda reference that the flanges (3b) and (1b) of Takeda device do not snap over one another during the engagement of the cover member (3) and the support member (1a). The joint formed by the flanges (3b) and (1b) is a hinge formed by inserting the J-shaped flange (3a) through the through-hole (1c) that is provided in the flange (1b). Therefore, Takeda does not teach or suggest a snap-fitting engagement of the flanges as required by claim 12.

Accordingly, claim 12 as a whole not disclosed by the Takeda patent. Moreover, Takeda does not teach or suggest a structure or function that is similar to that particularly claimed by Applicant. Claim 12 is allowable over the Takeda reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 12, and claims 13-15 depending therefrom, and their allowance, are respectfully requested.

Claim 16 as originally filed recites:

> 16. A shielded enclosure comprising:
> at least one first shield part having a first wall member and
> at least one second shield part having a second wall member,
>
> (1) the wall members defining a perimeter with a span, **one of the first and second wall members having a shape protruding inwardly relative to the perimeter and the other of the first and second wall members having a shape protruding outwardly relative to the perimeter,**
>
> (2) wherein the protruding shapes of the first and second wall members interfere during assembly of the first and second shield parts and **are resiliently deformed in passing one another**, and wherein at least one of said shapes protruding inwardly and outwardly is defined by a substantially J-shaped flange.

(highlight in bold and numbering added). The claim limitation (1) of claim 16 requires that the two wall members defining a perimeter have protrusions, one wall having a protrusion that protrudes inwardly and the other wall having a protrusion that protrudes outwardly. The Examiner asserts that the flanges (3b) and (1b) of the Takeda device meets this limitation. However, no reasonable interpretation of the structure of the Takeda device shown in Figs. 1A and 2 can lead to that conclusion. As clearly shown in FIG. 2, the flanges (3b) and (1b) are both protruding from their respective wall-like structures in the same direction. Thus, whether that

direction is considered to be inwardly or outwardly both flanges (3b) and (1b) are protruding in the same direction and **not**, in the opposite direction as required by the limitation (1) of claim 16.

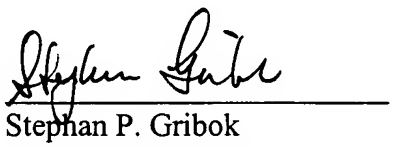
Secondly, the limitation (2) of claim 16 requires that the protruding flanges resiliently deform as they are passing one another during assembly of the electromagnetic shielding device. In contrast, the flanges (3b) and (1b) of the Takeda device form a hinge as discussed in reference to amended claim 1 above. The flanges (3b) and (1b) of the Takeda device do not resiliently deform in any direction during the assembly of the Takeda device. Such resiliently deforming engagement of the flanges (3b) and (1b) is not disclosed anywhere in the Takeda reference.

Accordingly, Takeda reference does not teach or suggest the invention claimed in claim 16 and claim 16 is patentably distinguishable over the Takeda reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 and its allowance are respectfully requested.

For the reasons stated herein, there is no basis to assert that the prior art anticipates the invention claimed as a whole. The differences between the invention and the prior art are such that the subject matter claimed as a whole is not shown to have been obvious. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-4 and 6-16 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 10, 2005



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